

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 were pending in this application. Claim 14 has been allowed. Claims 7-11 have been objected to only as being dependent upon rejected base claims, claims 1 and 12 have been rejected, and claims 2-6, 13 and 15 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species of invention.

Claims 1-6, 12, 13 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein (Applicant reserves the right to later present those claims in a related application). Claims 7 and 9 have been amended.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claim 14, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7-11. As the Examiner helpfully suggested, claims 7-11 have been suitably rewritten in independent form (claims 7 and 9 are independent; claim 8 depends from claim 7, and claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 9), and so are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowed claim 14 has been maintained unchanged.

Upon entry of this Amendment claims 7, 9 and 14 will be independent.

### **AFFIRMATION OF ELECTED SPECIES**

Applicant hereby affirms the telephonic election on February 21, 2007, of the Species I invention. As previously noted, at least claims 1, 7-12 and 14 correspond to the elected species.

### **The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Solely in the interests of expediting prosecution, and without conceding the propriety of this rejection, claim 12 has been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot, and must be withdrawn.

**The Rejection Under  
35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,517,175 to Kanaya et al.

Solely in the interests of expediting prosecution, and without conceding the propriety of this rejection, claims 1 and 12 have been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot, and must be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

No fees are believed to be owed in connection with this Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees now or hereafter due to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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